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U.S. PROTESTS 'LEAKING OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORT'

PY202123 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1925 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (NA) -- Diplomatic sources disclosed this afternoon that the United States lodged a protest with the Argentine Government for the disclosure of a document referring to Washington's policy in Central America which was delivered to the Foreign Ministry on 3 January.

The source added that the protest was delivered to the San Martin Palace yesterday and that Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari was studying its terms today.

U.S. Ambassador Harry Schlaudeman handed this document to the foreign minister shortly before the latter travelled to Nicaragua to attend the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement.

According to what was learned later on, in this document the United States outlined the policy which President Ronald Reagan had in mind for the troubled Central American region. Incidentally, the situation in Central America and the Caribbean were discussed during the meeting of the nonaligned countries.

A substantial portion of this document was published in a daily of this capital 2 days after it had been handed to the foreign minister. Washington's representation considered this as "the leaking of a confidential report."

Aguirre Lanari, who already interrupted his holidays in Mar del Plata to attend the funeral of former president Arturo Illia, went to the San Martin Palace last night where he learned about the U.S. "displeasure" over the disclosure of the memorandum.

This morning the foreign minister continued to analyze and discuss the subject with some of his closest aides.

CARDOSO CRITICIZES CBS REPORT ON HARASSMENT PLAN

PY201924 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1408 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Oscar Raul Cardoso commentary "Back Into Old Habits?"]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (NA) -- The report made by the U.S. CBS Television network regarding the possiblity that Argentina might initiate harassing belligerent actions against the British on the Malvinas Islands was more than a feverish "fabrication."

It isn't that the report is well founded. In addition to the denial made by "a high-ranking Army source" yesterday afternoon, Navy and Air Force spokesman also made clarifying statements in this regard.

According to a Navy source, the alarm at the U.S. intelligence service might have been caused by the "naval exercises carried out in the Rio Grande area. However, these exercises have nothing to do with an aggression against the Malvinas Islands because they are routine exercises normally carried out at this time of the year."

On its part, an Air Force source stated that the Air Force "has only carried out one movement of units from the southern to the northern part of the country under a personnel training plan."

The source added that "although this event caused the Air Force to cancel the leave of the involved personnel, it has nothing to do with a whimsical report on belligerent preparations."

Some diplomatic circles believe that the CBS journalists reflected the continuing efforts made by the U.S. intelligence service to supervise the development of the Argentine military potential since the unleashing of the South Atlantic conflict last April.

That concern grew even stronger at the end of 1982 when Washington detected an increasing number of Argentine operations on the international arms market, even though Buenos Aires logically had to replace the materiel lost during the conflict with Great Britain.

A diplomatic source recalled the interest shown by the U.S. Embassy in Argentina "in finding out the reasons for the latest increase in the Argentine foreign debt." Some official spokesmen made a surprising estimation of the foreign debt figure some days ago. "It is estimated at a little over $45 billion," the Finance Secretariat admitted.

The relationship between the increase in the foreign debt figure and the accelerated reequipment carried out by the Armed Forces also drew the attention of the multiparty group leaders. These two issues were discussed by a multiparty group commission. A document in this regard will be released next week.

An even more alarming rumor circulated about 2 weeks ago when Argentina learned of Margaret Thatcher's visit to the Malvinas Islands. This rumor was that the Air Force Command had analyzed the possibility of intercepting the plane on which Margaret Thachter was to return to Great Britain. According to the rumor, it was decided that the plan was faced with insurmountable difficulties and that it would serve no purpose.

A military spokesman stated: "The rumor is not true. The mere fact of attempting anything would have caused an international incident that would have deteriorated the progress made in the diplomatic field."

Statements made by sources of the Argentine Navy attache's office in Washington to an international news agency yesterday were unlikely to have eased the fears of the U.S. Government. The sources let it slip that "if Great Britain continues to refuse to negotiate" belligerent incidents "might occur in the future."

These contradictions resulting from unofficial denials and no less unofficial elliptical admissions are likely to be particularly irritating to international public opinion, since it has not recovered completely from the 2 April 1982 "shock."

As Jeanne Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, stated yesterday: "I cannot imagine another Argentine attack (on the islands). However, I also thought it something unimaginable the first time."

FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESENTS APOLOGIES TO BRAZIL

PY210010 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2343 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (NA) -- The Argentine Government made public tonight its apologies for the incident with a Brazilian oceanographic ship in the southern waters.

This was announced through a communique released a few minutes ago by the San Martin Palace.

The communique states: "The Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship regrets the inconveniences that could have taken place during the navigation of the ship 'Barao de Teffe' through the Beagle Channel, and states that it by no means was intended to change the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between Argentina and Brazil."

LA PRENSA SCORES WARSAW PACT PEACE PROPOSAL

PY201306 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jan 83 p 2-A

[Editorial: "Deceptive Soviet Proposal"]

[Text] Although different in form, the peace proposal that the Warsaw Pact has formulated for NATO at the end of the pact's meeting in Prague is essentially the same as the "nuclear reduction plan" that the USSR proposed to the Western world through the new Communist Party Secretary General Yuriy Andropov at the beginning of the year. That plan called for the suspension of the deployment of SS 20 missiles provided NATO gave up its program for deploying "Pershing" and "Cruise" missiles.

It is important to underline the timing of the deceptive Soviet proposal, because NATO had decided to begin deploying its missiles in 1983, in an effort to counteract Soviet power in Eastern Europe. The USSR was the first country to be notified of the NATO decision in 1979-80. The world public then learned about it. Therefore, the early announcement of the deployment of the missiles -- something unusual in this type of matter -- has given Western Europe "pacifist" movements, movements which are inspired and financed by the Kremlin, the opportunity to launch a campaign of street demonstrations against nuclear rearmament, although the demonstrators limit their criticism and their concern to the Western plan. This strategy was so absurd and so openly pro-Soviet that Moscow had to engage in a new farce by opening its territory to a column of "pacifists" coming from Finland. As it moved forward along the route it was given, the column waned without reaching any major Soviet city.

Compared to previous ones, the proposal forumulated by Andropov includes a curious change, namely, that the number of Soviet SS 20 missiles be made equal to that of current British and French missiles. In fact, if the Andropov initiative were accepted, NATO would not deploy its 572 "cruise" and "Pershing" missiles, forgoing its rearmament plan to Soviet advantage; the Soviet Union has been deploying SS 20 missiles for some time at a rate of one missile every 5 days.

The Andropov initiative is marked by such a childish affectation of "pacifism," that everything seems to indicate that he has not tried to convince NATO leaders but to lend support to a new disarmament campaign targeted against the West.

The step taken by Moscow has elicited a unamimous reaction -- which was, for sure, unwanted by the USSR -- from the main Western countries. This time, it has not been just the United States which opposed the new Soviet version of "nuclear disarmament," since Great Britain, France and the FRG have voiced their strong opposition to the communist plan as well. London disapproved of the proposal claiming that it would distrub the balance of power between the East and the West "even further." In turn, a French Government spokesman stated that the proposal is "full unacceptable." FRG Government spokesman Jurgen Sudhoff said that "the words by Andropov sound beautiful, but if they come true they will mean the perpetuation of Soviet military superiority."

Therefore, it is evident that Moscow is seeking to revive the suspicious pacifist campaigns which were launched some months ago in Western Europe. Aimed at NATO, such campaigns apparently do not take into account what happens in the USSR.

Skepticism has been the first reaction to the new communist proposal. Speaking in Brussels, a NATO spokesman said that "NATO countries have already signed their non-aggression pact, the peace pact the leaders of the Atlantic alliance approved on 10 June 1982 in Bonn." Atlantic observers point out that if the conclusions of the Prague meeting "involve a true willingness to ease tensions, the USSR will be able to show it at the negotiating table in Geneva, where talks for the reduction of tactical and strategic nuclear weapons are being held."

INFORMATION RELEASED ON NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Law on Candidacy Restrictions

PY210106 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2135 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (TELAM) -- In view of the national elections to be held this year and in compliance with a law issued today all those persons who as of 28 February are holding confirmed government posts are disqualified from holding posts within political parties or from running as candidates for election.

This measure affects the commander in chief of the Armed Forces; the president of the nation; minister, secretaries and under secretaries of the national executive branch; governors of provinces, national territory of Tierra del Fuego, the Antarctic and islands of the South Atlantic sea, their ministers, secretaries and under secretaries; municipal intendants; and the secretaries and under secretaries of the executive boards, president and members of the management of self-supporting state enterprises and national or provincial decentralized enterprises.

Earlier Elections 'Not Possible'

PY191348 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] President Reynaldo Benito Bignone has made statements to the newspaper EL ATLANTICO of Mar del Plata.

Asked whether he might attempt to break up the constitutional system, Bignone replied: Although I am not making any predictions, I hope that the situation which prevailed on 24 March 1976 will not arise again so that I will not have to be faced with the difficult problem of deciding whether or not to support the breaking up of the institutional system.

Asked about the election date, Bignone stated that the elections cannot be moved up because although the voter lists may be completed earlier, which perhaps is the most difficult of all things, many other things must be arranged before the elections. The deadline is the first Sunday in November.

'CRISIS' IN UDP REPORTEDLY DEEPENING 21 JANUARY

Cabinet Resignations Accepted

PY201435 La Paz Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] The president's letter accepting the resignation of the six MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] cabinet members notes:

Mr Ernesto Aranibar, minister of finance; Mr Alfonso Camacho, minister of education and culture; Mr Jorge Crespo, minister of industry and commerce; Mr Mario Argandona, minister of social welfare and health; Mr Jorge O'Connor Darlack, minister of energy and hydrocarbons; and Mr Hernando Vaca Diez, minister of integration:

Gentlemen:

For well-known reasons, I regret to inform you that I have decided to accept your resignations from the positions you hold.

I thank you for your cooperation and for your services to the nation.

Sincerely, [Hernan Siles Zuazo]

Siles Cites MIR 'Intransigence'

PY201325 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] A statement issued to the media through the Information Ministry notes that the intransigency of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, has caused a rupture within the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP].

Therefore, the crisis that the UDP has been experiencing since 8 January, when MIR cabinet members submitted their resignations, has deepened in view of the president's stand.

In parts of the statement entitled: Declaration of the Constitutional President of the Republic, the president states that despite his appeals and patient efforts, he has been unable to overcome the intransigence of the MIR.

In view of this crisis, the president decided yesterday not to travel to France. The president was to travel fto France today in response to an invitation extended by his colleague Francois Mitterrand.

Congress held a meeting yesterday to discuss whether or not to grant the president the proper authorization to travel. However, through a note submitted to the legislators, the president notified them about his decision to suspend the trip in view of the present political crisis.

The presidential statement that was issued to the press yesterday, notes, quote: The crisis brought about by the resignation of the six MIR Ministers has submerged the country in uncertainty and concern over the past 2 weeks, thus creating a false image of political instability.

I did not accept the ministers' resignations because they were not irrevocable and particularly because I did not want to break up the government structure at that time.

However, despite all my efforts and patient appeals, I have been unable to overcome the intransigency of the MIR which today has reasserted the resignation of the MIR cabinet members and which promoted a vote of abstention regarding the request I submitted to congress to authorize my trip to France.

In view of this, I have decided to accept the resignations submitted by the ministers of finance, education and culture; industry, commerce and tourism; energy and hydrocarbons; social welfare and health; and integration, and I thank them for their services to the nation.

Cabinet Resigns To Allow Reformation

PY201725 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1710 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] La Paz, 20 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- Bolivian Foreign Ministry sources have reported that all Bolivian ministers today submitted their resignations to leave President Hernan Siles Zuazo free to reassemble his cabinet.

These sources indicated that the ministers who represent the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), the Bolivian Communist Party (PCB), the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and the independents signed a collective resignation at noon today.

Last night Siles accepted the resignation which the six ministers of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) submitted 12 days ago.

Siles Excludes MIR From UDP

PY210042 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Sapnish 0000 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Here is an urgent last-minute report for which we interrupt the newscast. This is a direct report by our reporter (Daniel Alarcon):

[Begin (Alarcon) relay] Thank you. Attention Bolivia:

The crisis is becoming still more serious within the governing Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] front. Hernan Siles Zuazo, constitutional president of Bolivia, has announced to Jaime Paz Zamora, president of the revolutionary Movement of the Left [MIR], that he will restructure a new government without the MIR. This was announced at a press conference a few minutes ago by Jaime Paz Zamora himself who is Bolivian vice president.

We repeat: Constitutional President Hernan Siles Zuazo has told Paz Zamora that he will restructure a new government without the presence of the MIR, since he has been made the subject of pressures on the part of the MIR. This is what Lic Paz Zamora said. This virtually means that the MIR leaves the UDP.

More details will be given when available. [end relay]

AIR FORCE HEAD URGES MORE COOPERATION WITH U.S.

PY201621 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Jan 83 p 5

[Text] Brasilia -- Air Force Minister Brig Gen Delio Jardim de Mattos said yesterday that cooperation between the Brazilian Air Force and the U.S. Air Force (USAF) could be intensified, with a greater contribution from both sides.

Minister Mattos added: "I am going to the United States in March and there are possibilities for stepping up cooperation and this may be especially interesting as far as the industries of both countries are concerned."

RADIO COMMENTS ON U.S.-HONDURAN MANEUVERS

PY201225 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portugese 1000 GMT 20 Jan 83

[By Newton Carlos]

[Text] New signs of change can be noticed in Central America, a region in turmoil. The United States and Honduras will stage new military maneuvers. Two of them were held last year. These maneuvers raise concern in neighboring Nicaragua. As the two previous ones, the present maneuvers will take place in the Honduran-Nicaraguan border area. However, they will have a new an important element this time: Honduras has invited all Central American countries to send observers to watch the joint maneuvers of Honduran and U.S. troops. All Central American countries have been invited, including Nicaragua. Therefore, this country can also send its observers, and this helps to dispel the anti-Sandinist cast of the U.S.-Honduran joint military maneuvers.

There are signs of change in Central America, signs that are directly related to U.S. policy toward that region.

MINISTER TERMS FOREIGN TRADE SURPLUS POSITIVE

PY190222 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] The Brazilian trade balance surplus in 1982 amounted to $775 million which, according to Finance Minister Ernane Galveas, represented a "highly positive result." Based on the record $1,202,000,000-surplus in 1981 the government initially predicted a surplus of $2 billion for 1982. Last year Brazil exported goods worth $20,175,000,000 (13.39 percent less than the previous year) and imported goods worth $19,400,000,000. Shortly after the Foreign Trade Department of the Bank of Brazil released the figures of the Brazilian trade balance Carlos Viacava, secretary general of the Finance Ministry, referred to "the great effort made to export as much as possible overcoming all the obstacles placed by foreign trade."

NAVY MINISTER REGRETS 'BARAO DO TEFFE' INCIDENT

PY210017 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Brasilia -- The Navy minister feels that the incident with the ship "Barao do Teffe" was regrettable because weapons were aimed at a completely unarmed research ship. Maximiano da Fonseca added that the problem of interception of the Brazilian antarctic ship by an Argentine patrol boat will not damage the naval cooperation between the navies of the two countries.

The Navy minister stated that the personnel responsible for the incident do not belong to the Argentine Navy but to the maritime police.

'Climate of Trust' Marred

PY201406 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Jan 83 p 6

[By Flavio de Almeida Sales]

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- All Brazilian diplomatic circles considered the interception of the 'Barao do Teffe' oceanographic ship yesterday afternoon as a simple-minded attempt by the Argentine Government to involve Brazil in its dispute with Chile over the Beagle Channel.

In calling the Argentine ambassador in to ask him for a formal explanation regarding the incident, Itamaraty acted with moderation. In the halls of Itemaraty everybody was deploring the incident, which took place only 5 days after the meeting between Presidents Figueiredo and Bignone.

Itamaraty was more upset because Buenos Aires had previous information (since last year) on the route of the 'Barao do Teffe' and because the Argentine patrol boat and warship may have not acted on their own but pressumably on instructions from the government. These instructions may have been imparted before the Figueiredo-Bignone meeting on 13 January.

The attempt to have the 'Barao do Teffe' guided by an Argentine pilot through the zone in dispute was intended to commit Brazil to the Argentine position on the Beagle dispute, since accepting the pilot would have implied recognition of Argentina's jurisdiction over the channel.

The episode will not cause a rupture of relations between Brazil and Argentina, but it certainly marred the climate of trust that was taking hold between the two countries.

INITIATION DATE FOR ITAIPU TURBINES DELAYED

PY210040 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] The lack of transmission lines and the excess of electric power in Brazil could hinder even more so the date when the first Itaipu turbines will become operational. As a consequence only two turbines, instead of three as had been scheduled, will start operating. Each of them has a power of 700,000 kilowatts. According to General Costa Cavalcanti, president of the Itaipu Binational Enterprise, who issued this information, the company should not be affected directly by the economic difficulties which the country is undergoing. However, he stated, Itaipu has "had to make some adjustments in its budget" and "eliminate whatever we considered superfluous." The transmission line which will transport the energy generated by Itaipu to the southeastern region will be delayed another 3 months due to the lack of resources to establish it.

BRIEFS

NEW CHIEF OF STAFF -- President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo today installed Gen Waldir de Vasconcelos as new chief of staff of the Brazilian Armed Forces. He replaces Gen Alacyr Frederico Werner, who is leaving the active service of the Army. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Jan 83 PY]

GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATES, MAY PROSECUTE BANKERS

PY181320 Paris AFP in Spanish 0034 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 17 Jan (AFP) -- The military government of President Augusto Pinochet announced today that bankers who are found to be responsible for the acute crisis affecting the Chilean financial system will be rigorously punished in accordance with the law.

Four days ago, economic authorities placed under state control eight financial institutions after finding that their capital and reserves are insufficient to cover the losses they had sustained and to meet their commitments with national and foreign creditors.

Each case is being investigated and should punishable practices be discovered, court action will be brought against those who are responsible, an official spokesman said.

According to newspaper reports, several directors and administrators of the banks and financial institutions that were placed under state control have been ordered to remain in the country.

The government secretary general, Hernan Errazuriz, has confirmed that investigations are underway, but said nothing about people being ordered to stay in the country.

ROJAS GALDAMES POSTPONES TRIP TO ASIA, EGYPT

PY191439 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Rojas Galdames has postponed his trip abroad. The minister had plans to visit some Southeast Asian nations and Egypt. The trip had been planned in response to official invitations made by the governments of those countries.

The official information released by the Foreign Ministry says that new dates are being considered for the foreign minister's trip. The countries which were to be visited have been notified of this postponement.

FOREIGN RELATIONS UNDER SECRETARY TO LEAVE POST

PY201641 Paris AFP in Spanish 0146 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Santiago, 19 Jan (AFP) -- Government sources reported today that Col Ernesto Videla, head of the Chilean delegation to the mediation of the southern border dispute with Argentina over the Beagle Channel, will leave his post of foreign relations under secretary.

Colonel Videla will be replaced in February by Lt Col Humberto Julio Reyes, currently serving as planning director at the Foreign Ministry.

It was reported in Santiago that Colonel Videla will continue to serve as head of the Chilean delegation to the Vatican's mediation in the long-standing Beagle conflict. This conflict nearly caused Chile and Argentina to go to war in 1978.

GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES CONTINUE AFTER AMNESTY

PA210311 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Bogota -- General Gustavo Matamoros Costa, commander of the Colombian Armed Forces, has charged that subversive groups operating in the country have committed over a hundred crimes, including murders, kidnappings and the violent occupation of towns, in actions that have all taken place since Law 35 on Amnesty for Peace came into effect.

General Matamoros Acosta and General Rafael Samudio Molina, deputy attorney general for the Military Corps, met yesterday for more than 2 hours with Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez. They charged that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC; 19 April Movement, M-19; People's Liberation Army, ELP; National Liberation Army, ELN; and Pedro Leon Arboleda, PLA, have committed crimes against the Constitution, public security, the people's rights, the lives and safety of the people and the national economy since the amnesty law came into effect last 20 November.

According to the military High Command, during the past 2 months guerrilla groups have committed 50 murders of civilians and military personnel, kidnapped 17 people, wounded 16 people, and either ransacked or violently taken over towns and settlements 18 times throughout the country.

General Matamoros Acosta told the atterney general that these crimes are obvious violations of the Constitution and penal codes, and he demanded an immediate and strict investigation by the Attorney General's Office.

MAN ARRESTED FOR HAVING REVOLVER NEAR PRESIDENT

PA210452 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0420 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Bogota, 20 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- This afternoon the authorities arrested a man who was wielding a revolver as Colombian President Belisario Betanour was leaving the government offices in Cali, 500 km southeast of here. The secret police said that the suspect works for a private protective agency.

Col Mario Duarte, regional chief of the secret police, told reporters that during the initial interrogation the man said that "by coincidence he was cleaning his weapon when the president was leaving the Valle Government Building."

The president's bodyguards acted immediately when a person shouted and pointed toward the second floor of a nearby building, where the man with the weapon was apparently aiming at the president. A police spokesman said that a telescopic sight was found in the room where the man was. The president did not give the matter much importance, and the authorities gave no further details.

BRIEFS

COUNCIL OF STATE PRESIDENT -- Bogota -- Magistrate Humberto Mora was appointed new Council of State president today. Mora is the former Council of State vice president. His appointment received a unanimous vote. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jan 83 PA]

HURTADO RECEIVES EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

PA181640 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Equadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea this morning. Questioned by journalists, the Egyptian diplomat said his government wants to increase and strengthen bilateral relations. He said the common characteristics of Ecuador and Egypt, such as membership in the Nonaligned Movement, petroleum production, their struggle for peace, will permit relations to increase. Ghali said he delivered a message of friendship and solidarity from the Egyptian chief of state to President Hurtado. Here are his remarks:

[Begin Ghali recording in English with phrase by phrase translation into Spanish] We held a very constructive and productive meeting on bilateral relations and how to reinforce them. We have many things in common. First of all, both countries belong to the Nonaligned Movement. Both are located in the southern part of the world. Both produce oil and receive oil revenues. That is why we have a special relationship that will naturally demand further consultation and dialogue. [end recording]

ECUADOR TO ATTEND GENEVA OPEC MEETING 23 JAN

PA181819 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Natural Resources Minister Gustavo Galindo said this afternoon that Ecuador will attend the OPEC meeting in Geneva on Sunday. He said that Ecuador will defend the current price of $34.25 per barrel and the producting ceiling of 18.5 million barrels a day established in December.

He said that Ecuador will request authorization to produce 230,000 barrels of petroleum. He said that this figure will be a reality next week and that Ecuador is capable of producing 230,000 barrels. Here is a part of Natural Resources Minister Galindo's statement:

[Begin Galindo recording] In any case, that is a right of all OPEC members, which is why the ministerial meetings are held -- to discuss the subject and to try to find commond ground that will protect our mutual interest, which is the defense of the price of petroleum produced by OPEC members.

[Question] A good way to control the price is to restrict production?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] When the country talks of increasing its production, it is talking of increasing by (?10,000) barrels and that is a figure that does not have a decisive influence on the entire situation to which we are referring. Nevertheless, we said at the Vienna meeting that if OPEC decided to maintain the reference price of $34 in exchange for a small reduction in our production, we would be willing to do so. If you think about it, you will realize that it is better for the country to sell (?100,000) barrels at $34 than to sell 110,000 at $26. This is clear. One has to view both things and decide if, by means of a small reduction on our part -- everything is small on our part in terms of petroleum -- we can help to get other countries, which can reduce by 100,000 or 200,000 barrels, to find an atmosphere encouraging them to do so, thus maintaining a higher price. This is to Ecuador's economic advantage. [end recording]

The natural resources minister also said that Sunday's meeting in Geneva will be a continuation of the meeting held in Vienna in December. The minister expressed optimism that a consensus will be reached this time. If not, he said, it would be unfortunate and a hard blow to OPEC.

ABC COLOR ON DECLARATION OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

PY192100 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Jan 83 p 12

[Editorial: "Reweaving the Nation's Social Fiber"]

[Text] In a document from the Paraguyan Bishop's Conference [CEP], the bishops of our country have just put forth a critical analysis of the national process. In clear and direct language, they have drawn the citizenry's attention to the political and social problems which cripple "fruitful and well-structured human coexistence."

The Catholic Church has consistently expressed its concern over the vicissitudes of the Paraguyan nation. Over and over again, its voice has sounded the alarm regarding the dangerous civil and moral cracks which endanger the nation. But over the past decades that voice almost always got lost in a vacuum. Positive reactions have not been forthcoming up until now.

For that reason perhaps, the latest utterance has so strongly insited not only in the church's legitimate right to be concerned about our political affairs but also in pointing out the faults and outrages which run afoul of our human values, our laws and our aspirations for the common good.

The CEP has once again quite clearly focused on actions and attitudes that call for corrections: "The disregard for the human being," the violation of its right to freedom, justice and equality, "arbitrary arrests, the practice of torture, the absence of personal guarantees." It denounced "sectarianism, discrimination, and the problem of administrative corruption." It, however, emphasized the urgent need for "reweaving of the nation's social fiber as an absolute priority."

That need is to be taken seriously because it is important. Society is a living organism. However, society's driving force is not just its material force, its productive capacity, but the power of its values, its spiritual convictions which give a historical sense of direction and perspective to a community. Therefore, when these values and convictions are weakened or deteriorate, the nation's moral structure suffers and the principles supporting the country's institutional system begin to lose vigor.

It is thus possible -- as the bishops point out -- for a man to rank his selfish interests above the common good, for an official to distort his function and responsibility; and for the juridical branch to serve the abuse of power rather than the cause of justice. Obviously in this climate there can be no respect for human dignity, much less for the practice of political pluralism.

Pluralism is not just an ideal but "an enriching reality." So the church once again issues "a vehement appeal for dialogue and reconciliation to all men and political groups." It is time to set aside arrogance, resentment, and to let "the national symbols prevail over the partisan symbols, so that together we can undertake the task of building the Paraguyan nation."

We will only begin to move toward that noble objective when the government begins to play no more than a supportive role. This way the state, in line with its juridical nature, will direct its actions toward the good of the entire community, and will only intervene in private activities when the circumstances, the legal order and the well-being of society requires.

The internal structure of any society is subject to wear and tear, more so when there is no periodical renovation. Consequently, in tune with the wise observations of our bishops, this is the time to begin the task of reweaving the nation's social fiber. It is high time to give shape to a truly free society that is open to dialogue and understanding among all its members.

LA TRIBUNA CARRIES LIBERAL PARTY PROCLAMATION

PY190144 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 9 Jan 83 p 2

[Text] Yesterday the leadership of the Liberal Party, headed by Fulvio Hugo Celauro, issued a proclamation in light of the upcoming national elections.

The communique states: "The Liberal Party central leadership addresses the Paraguyan people at the beginning of a new constitutional period in order to voice its desires and reassert the objectives it has in mind for our country.

"The need to impose order after tha anarchy inherited from Morinigo's dictatorship represented a great setback in the exercise of liberties. Although we have gradually recovered ordinary liberties it seems that it will take more time to recover fundamental liberties. It is our desire that the 5-year period which we are initiating will be recalled as the period in which liberties were fully restored. In order to achieve this the Liberal Party proclaims the need to guide the citizenry so that it may exercise its freedom responsibly so that it may not be undermined once again.

"Democracy, which is the basis for social harmony and a multiparty system, must be perfected with the participation of all the sectors without boasting about self-sufficiency based on the ephemeral prevalance of force. The Liberal Party proclaims that the maintenance of an unjust system will lead to a serious deterioration of the social and economic order which will have regrettable consequences for our future development but which we will avoid with patriotic dedication.

"Justice only exists when it is based on equality of opportunities and equal treatmnt before the law which is in keeping with the Paraguyan peoples' generous and egalitarian spirit, therefore, the Liberal Party proclaims that it should be accessible to all citizens and that integrity and capability should be the only requirements to exercise it.

"Peace is a precious gift which we are especially determined to preserve. The Liberal Party proclaims that only by satisfying the people's desires, by improving living standards, by doing away with the shameful economic differences and by fully respecting individual and social rights [will peace be secured].

"National unity, a powerful force capable of mobilizing our peoples' inexhaustible energy at the service of the greatness of the entire nation, should prevail over the greediness and passion of a few for the happiness and satisfaction of the mass. The Liberal Party proclaims that it hopes that the greatest achievements of which the human spirit is capable will stem from that national unity based on respect and fraternity.

"In view of this unavoidable and unpostponable commitment we call on the citizenry the political parties, the church, the Armed Forces, the media, the farmers, students and workers, the artists and intellectuals, well-meaning men and women to start the year 1983 with a joyous spirit, a comforted faith, the sound purposes strengthened, in order to take advantage of this hostoric opportunity which all the peoples are given once again. The Liberal Party proclaims that this is the moment, that we are willing and that with this understanding we should all be worthy of the future we seek."

ECONOMY MINISTRY RAISES GASOLINE PRICES

PY172147 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 16 Jan 83 p 5

[Text] Through its press office, the Economy Ministry has released a communique on the increase of prices of the gasoline-alcohol mixture and of premium gasoline.

Through decree No 37,421 dated 12 January 1983, the government raised the price of the gasoline-alcohol mixture to 160 guaranies per liter and the price of premium gasoline to 200 guaranies per liter.

The communique explains that the measure has been adopted for the purpose of compensating for the exchange rate difference that results from the importation of gasoline and for increasing fiscal funds for public investment.

In its session held on 12 January, the National Economic Coordination Council decided that Petropar (Paraguayan Petroleum Company) and the treasury will each receive 50 percent of the new increase.

The communique indicates that no other complementary fiscal measures are foreseen.

ABC COLOR ON RELEASE OF ALLEGED COMMUNISTS

PY190101 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Jan 83 p 1

[Excerpt] The investigations department released five prisoners whose release had already been ordered by attorney Elpidio Orlando Luraghi and were being held in the premises of this department. They were all charged with the alleged violation of law No 209 which provides for "the defense of public order and the freedom of the persons," in view of alleged activities of the self-styled Paraguayan Communist Party (PCP). With the release of these five persons the number of persons released in this case amounts to seven.

Sources of the Churches Committee for Emergency Aid [Comite de Iglesias para Ayudas de Emergencia] confirmed that the following persons were released between Monday and Tuesday: Venerando Vazquez Baez, Julian Acuna Benitez, Melanio Zacarias del Valle, Justo Bareiro Alvarenga and Tiburcio Gonzalez.

HAVANA, LIMA SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT 18 JAN

FL182150 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2132 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] The mayor of the Peruvian Capital, Eduardo Orrego, and the president of the Havana City Provincial Assembly of the People's Government, Oscar Fernandez Mell, have signed a cooperation agreement between the two capitals in Lima.

The announcement was made at the solemn ceremony which closed the festivities marking the 448th anniversary of Lima's founding. The agreement covers the exchange of experiences on the function and development of the Havana City Provincial Assembly of the People's Government and the municipality of Lima. Likewise, the agreement stressed that the two cities will exchange experiences on preservation, care and restoration of the two cities' historical sites to preserve them for the benefit of mankind.

GOVERNMENT TO PROHIBIT NEW COCA PLANTATIONS

PY200016 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Jan p A-1

[Excerpts] Agriculture Minister Mirko Cuculiza Torre stated yesterday that his Ministry will adopt severe measures to prevent the increase of coca plantations in the central forest region which currently amount to 60,000 hectares with a production of 180 million kg. Most of this production is earmarked for the shady activity of drug trafficking which has increased significantly during the past 12 years, he stated.

Cuculiza Torre stated that practically 8,000 families (approximately 40,000 persons) are involved in these plantations, and added that this situation provokes an extremely complex social problem. "We are therefore engaged in preventing the plantation of one more hectare of coca -- as it has been happening to this date -- under punishment of destruction of the plantation by force and other drastic sanctions," he stated.

The agriculture minister also said that the government of President Fernando Belaunde Terry intends -- as in his first term in office -- to replace these plantations, although it will require an investment of several dozens of millions of dollars. He said in this regard that a proposal is being prepared to develop food and agroindustrial plantations and also communications means. "This is a medium- and long-term plan, and for this reason we will begin by prohibiting new coca plantations," he stated.

SHINING PATH RECRUITING, TRAINING CHILDREN

PY200003 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 2 Jan 83 p 10

[Excerpt] Ayacucho -- The Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP] has discovered a sinister Shining Path method to recruit terrorists for the organization: 12 to 14 year old boys have been recruited and, after being brainwashed, they are trained to kill officers of the Armed Forces and police.

The sinister manipulation of boys by Shining Path terrorists was discovered with the capture of a minor, J. Zorrilla (14), who, on 16 September, machinegunned to death PIP agent Oscar Rivera Aguano.

The minor was turned over to the judge of minors who, a short time later, set him free on the grounds that he was not liable. Since last week, Zorrilla has been in custody of the Departmental Investigation Police because it was discovered that he was participating in a plot to assassinate Armed Forces and police officers.

A 12 year-old girl and two 13 year-old boys are also in custody. It was discovered that, after being indoctrinated and trained in handling guns and explosives, they were about to set off a wave of assassinations, taking advantage of the fact that they can go unnoticed by policemen who, up until now, were only on the lookout for adults.

Using Peddlers, Beggars as Spies

PY201630 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 3 Jan 83 p 7

[Excerpts] Ayacucho -- The police have discovered that the number of peddlers, insane people and beggars has suddenly increased during the past few months and after an investigation carried out it was established that they belong to the "intelligence service" of the "Shining Path" group.

When the police were asked about the terrorists' unique "intelligence service," they disclosed that they had been aware of it since 2 months ago and that personnel had been assigned to tail the possible members of this sinister espionage network.

The members (the number of them has not been established) of this rudimentary but effective intelligence service have been recruited mainly in the shanty towns of this city.

The main duty of the members of this network who are placed at strategic points such as the main market place (50 meters from the civil guard headquarters) and the main square, is to observe the activities carried out by certain local political and police personalities and now of servicemen also.

TERRORISTS TAKE OVER AYACUCHO RADIO STATION

PY201156 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 8 Jan 83 p 10

[Text] Ayacucho -- A group of guerrillas armed with guns and wearing ski masks burst into the premises of "La Voz de Huamanga" radio station, after threatening director Juan Camborda with death, forced him to broadcast a cassette containing subversive slogans and statements advocating the armed struggle.

Once they had fulfilled their objectives, the terrorists left the radio premises and fled in an unknown direction.

Three other employees -- two announcers and a secretary -- were also subdued by the terrorists.

Shortly after the broadcast, which was heard by a great number of the city's residents, members of the Armed Forces and the police arrived at the station. However, the terrorists had already left by then.

In view of this incident, Juan Camborda has decided to leave for Lima with his whole family.

MARCH TO PROTEST U.S. AREA POLICY SCHEDULED

PA200433 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Mexico City -- A huge anti-imperialist march to demand that the Reagan administration stop the aggressions against Nicaragua and to condemn any U.S. intervention against Nicaragua will be held in Mexico on 22 January. This march is being promoted by the National Permanent Forum of Solidarity with the Salvadoran People, and a letter announcing the march will be delivered to the U.S. ambassador in Mexico.

The letter will include an analysis of the violent situation affecting Central America due to U.S. imperialist intervention. The note also demands the immediate suspension of all economic, military and political aid to the regimes of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, as they are considered repressive and violators of human rights.

Several labor and political orgaizations of Mexico, as well as some organizations of solidarity with Central America, are supporting the peace initiative for Central America proposed by the governments of Mexico and Venezuela.

Meanwhile, Mexico is maintaining its position of not joining the so-called Forum for Peace and Democracy, created on instructions from the Reagan administration in Costa Rica, according to a spokesman of the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat.

Asked about the announced visit of Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez, who is expected to arrive in Mexico to negotiate Mexico's entry into the forum, the Foreign Relations Secretariat spokesman said the Mexican position has not changed overnight, and that evidence of this is the attendance of Foreign Secretary Fernando Sepulveda at the recent meeting in Panama, where Mexico insisted on the need for a dialogue between Nicaragua and Honduras.

DOMINICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY MEETS PRESIDENT

FL200250 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0003 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado today granted a private audience to Dominican Foreign Secretary Jose Augusto Vega Imbert at his National Palace offices. Also present at the meeting were Hatuey de Camps, Dominican secretary of the presidency, and the Dominican Republic's ambassador here, Carlos Federico Perez y Perez. Mexico's Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor also attended the meeting, details of which were not made public.

Dominican Presidential Secretary Departs

FL202205 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2135 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- The Dominican Republic's secretary of state for the presidency, Hatuey de Camps, today departed for his country after a 2-day visit to this city. He had accompanied Dominican Foreign Secretary Jose Augusto Vega Imbert, who will leave tomorrow at 0200 local (0800 GMT), after 3 days of negotiations here.

Hatuey de Camps was seen off by Francisco Roux Lopez, assistant director general of protocol, and other Foreign Secretariat officials. The official gave no statements to the national media, limiting his comments to say that his stay in Mexico had been fruitful in promoting good relations between the two countries and that the agreements reached were commercial in nature.

FOREIGN MINISTER AMADO PROTESTS U.S. ACTIONS

PA142244 Panama City ACAN-EFE in Spanish 2008 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Managua, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado III today protested the use of U.S. military installations on the banks of the Panama Canal to send military advisers to El Salvador and Honduras.

During a news conference held in Managua today on the occasion of the conclusion of the ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries, Amado said that the Panamanian Government has sent several protest notes to the U.S. Administration denouncing the use of the military bases in Panama for purposes other than those specified in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties signed in 1977. He said that Panama sent a note to the Reagan administration at the beginning of this year "expressing deep concern over the improper use of the U.S. military installations."

"The bases should serve only for use of the canal. Any other use would violate the Panama Canal's neutrality," Amado said.

Replying to a question, the foreign minister said that he disagreed with the text of a document distributed by the U.S. Embassy at the meeting and which the Cuban delegation circulated among the delegates. According to the document, "the United States has to date complied with all of its obligations specified in the canal treaties and has clearly stated that it plans to comply with the treaty completely."

JOINT MILITARY MANEUVERS WITH U.S. DESCRIBED

PA200305 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Jan 83 pp A-1, C-2

[Text] "Kindle Liberty '83" is a joint military exercise, coordinated by the joint board in line with Article IV of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty that provides for joint defense of the canal by the Panama National Guard and the U.S. Southern Command with the U.S. forces having primary responsibility for the defense of the canal until the treaty expires on 31 December 1999.

This excerise will be carried out on the banks of the Panama Canal from 11 to 17 February. It is part of a series of exercises that are regularly scheduled by the joint board in order to establish optimum training conditions for the two forces that are involved in the joint defense of the canal.

All components of the U.S. Southern Command -- land, air and sea forces -- will be involved in the exercise, as will a battalion-size contingent from the Panama National Guard.

"Kindle Liberty '83" was jointly planned by the Panama National Guard and the U.S. Southern Command through the joint board. The main objectives of this joint military exercise include an evaluation of procedures for the joint defense of the canal by Panamanian and U.S. forces and operations for the land-based defense of the Panama Canal and the ports located on its banks, reconnaissance operations under simulated conditions, and mobilization of support forces such as the Operational Readiness Command and the Atlantic Command.

This joint military exercise will also be useful in evaluating the immediate and growing participation of the National Guard in canal defense and the steps it must take in the future to assume the full defense of the canal in the year 2000.

"Kindle Liberty '83" will be carried out chiefly in the training areas that the Republic of Panama has made available to the U.S. forces in accordance with the Panama Canal Treaty.

"Kindle Liberty '83" will be joined in progress by other components of the U.S. forces, such as the Operational Readiness Command and the Atlantic Command, which will participate as guests in order to evaluate support mobilization requirements for the defense of the canal.

Upon conclusion of the exercise, the U.S. Army Transport Command will take the participants back to their home bases, and the Strategic Air Command will support this phase by providing airborne refueling with KC-135 tankers.

HIGH COMMISSIONER CHOSEN FOR BANANA PROBLEMS

PA210209 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] The executive branch today appointed Fernando Manfredo high commissioner for banana industry problems in view of the latest events that have taken place between workers and the Chiriqui Land Company.

Manfredo was an active participant when the Union of Banana Exporting Countries, UPEB, began operating.

CANAL COMMISSION OFFICIAL DISCUSSES LOSSES

PA182028 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Fernando Manfredo, deputy administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, told this station that Panama Canal losses might amount to $12 million this year unless a 9.8-percent toll increase is approved. The toll issue will be discussed in the upcoming Canal Board of Directors sessions. Following are Manfredo's statements:

[Begin recording] [Manfredo] The appointment process, including the U.S. President's signature on the appointments, was completed last week. This means that all duly-appointed members of the Board of Directors will meet on 24 January.

[Question] Will the toll increase be discussed at this meeting?

[Answer] Two main topics will be discussed at this meeting, one of which is a toll increase. We might have to change the effective date due to the drop in traffic we've experienced. This drop was greater than expected, and is due not only to the Alaskan oil traffic, which we knew we were going to lose, but to a drop in other traffic. The other topic we will discuss is the salary scale. This is the so-called salary scale for the Panama area, which has caused so much controversy.

[Question] There has been talk that this salary scale will be eliminated. Is this true?

[Answer] It is one of the possibilities under study.

[Question] To what extent will a toll increase be possible?

[Answer] The increase we are requesting is the one we had calculated: 9.8 percent. We've estimated the loss due to the Alaskan oil at 14 percent. Although we have lost that oil cargo business, we hope that traffic will improve. Otherwise, we will have to try to absorb the extra costs through austerity measures.

[Question] Taking into account the decline in traffic, what will the past year's losses be?

[Answer] If we do not increase the tolls in time -- in other words, if we delay this decision 1 more month than I feel we should -- we may lose approximately $12 million, but this is in relation to what we've budgeted. However, we can minimize this loss through austerity measures. If the budget is implemented exactly as approved and if the increases are approved a month after what we've estimated, we would lose approximately $12 million. However, I can assure you that we won't have these losses.
[end recording]

BELIZE

PRICE, CABINET BEGIN WORK ON 1983-84 BUDGET

FL200155 Bridgetown CANA in English 1829 GMT 19 Jan 83

[By Norris Hall]

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Jan 19, CANA -- Belize's Prime Minister George Price and his 12-member cabinet started discussions today behind closed doors on the composition of the country's 1983-84 budget. Government sources said the talks would last until Friday and the budget should be ready for presentation to Parliament around mid-February by Prime Minister Price, who holds the finance portfolio. Belize's 1982-83 budget was 186.6 million dollars (1 Belize dollar; 49 cents U.S.).

The sources said the budget would reflect the slump in the national economy recorded last year, and harsh austerity measures were likely to be introduced to shore up the economy. "There will have to be some serious belt tightening and more investment in productive enterprises to improve the economy which experienced a growth rate of no more than two percent in 1982," an official of the Central Bank said.

Government revenues were significantly reduced last year as a result of poor world prices for sugar, Belize's chief foreign exchange earner. According to official figures, total earnings from sugar were down to 62 million dollars last year from 85 million in 1981. Belize recently applied to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for economic assistance under the agency's compensatory financing facility to offset the reduction in government revenues from exports.

Due to the fall in export earnings and a decline in imports, Belize's trade gap widened from 90 million dollars in 1981 to 117 million dollars last year -- a difference of 27 million dollars. The triple devaluation of the Mexican peso, which was selling at about 25 to 30 pesos for one Belize dollar before the first devaluation and which now sells at roughly 65 to 70 pesos for one dollar, was the main cause of the decline in imports as well as re-exports to Mexico.

This has had adverse effects on the Belizean economy and has given way to smuggling and illegal trading along the Belizean-Mexico border which is difficult to police. Despite the bleak outlook for the Belize economy, the Central Bank official said foreign aid, includingthe country's allocation of 10 million dollars under the U.S.-sponsored Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), would help pull the economy out of the present slump.

BRIEFS

UDP ELECTS NEW LEADER -- Belmopan, Belize, Jan 17, CANA -- A former Belize school teacher, 42-year-old Manuel Esquivel, is now the leader of the opposition United Democratic Party (UDP). The UDP today said Mr Esquivel was elected during its convention in Belize City yesterday, at which Crul Thompson was elected unopposed an opposition leader in Parliament. Mr Equivel, who is a UDP senator, defeated veteran opposition politician Philip Goldson in the bid for the party leadership. Esquivel made his debut in politics in 1974 when he was elected to the Belize City council, he holds a degree in physics from Loyola University in the U.S. and a diploma in educational science from Bristol College in England. The former party leader, Dr Theodore Aranda, was booted out of the party last December after his party colleagues compalined he was arrogant. Dr Aranda had announced he would form his own party in January, but this is yet to happen. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2225 GMT 17 Jan 83 FL]

COSTA RICA

MONGE DISCUSSES U.S. ECONOMIC, MILITARY AID

PA202149 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] [Passage indistinct] while admitting that the United States has given valuable assistance to our country, especially during the last few months, President Luis Alberto Monge reiterated that economic aid is just trickling in. The slowness in the arrival of economic aid does not apply to military aid, but we are not asking for military aid, President Monge added. He said once more that many governments have insisted on the urgency of attending to the matter of economic aid [words indistinct] the means to win the war against poverty [words indistinct].

VOLIO SAYS CASTRO SHIRKING RESPONSIBILITY

PA201505 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Fidel Castro is shirking responsibility. His response to the Costa Rican deputies, who raised the need for him to intercede with the Nicaraguan Government so that it would restrain its activities against Costa Rica, is an evasion of his responsibility in the search for peace in Central America, Foreign Minister Fernando Volio said.

Everyone knows that Cuba is participating massively in the Nicaraguan process; thus, President Monge and the deputies simply asked Castro to use his good offices, given his close friendship with the Nicaraguan commanders' government, Volio added. It was an opportunity to prove to the world that Fidel Castro is willing to contribute to the resolution of the Central American crisis, Volio said.

Castro assumes a grave responsibility by refusing the Costa Rican request, because it is known worldwide that the Sandinist government depends heavily upon the Cuban Government's cooperation, the foreign minister pointed out.

At the same time, he noted, the request showed the Costa Rican Government's willingness to seek a responsible dialogue with the Nicaraguan regime. Nevertheless, everything seems to be directed at preventing this dialogue or at ensuring that everything be handled unilaterally, despite the fact that Costa Rica made an effort to find a path to dialogue. However, we will continue to struggle to find ways of decreasing tension, the foreign minister said.

Meanwhile, in Foreign Minister Volio's opinion, no change in U.S. foreign policy would limit the survival of a representative, pluralistic and participatory democracy. He said it would be illogical to believe in democracy if the United States attempted to weaken the efforts of democracies such as Costa Rica to coexist in a world of Marxist-Leninist threats. Volio clearly stated that he had no official information about a U.S. decision to change its foreign policy toward Central America.

PAPER CRITICIZES DEPUTIES' VISIT TO CUBA

PA201643 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 13 Jan 83 p 14-A

[Editorial: "A Message to Castro"]

[Text] We don't know whether this was the idea of the national liberation party deputies, who could not resist the temptation of a trip with all expenses paid, or whether it was a government suggestion, intended to avoid the bad impression that would be created by an official visit to a country that is controlled by a regime that offends and discredits us.

The truth is, incredible as it may seem, that the Costa Rican ruling party deputies who are going to Cuba are carrying with them, as a "message to Garcia," a document addressed to the Cuban president that will be given to him at the last minute, once the tour of the island has ended and they are met at the palace by the notorious dictator.

The message is brief. It contains a list of complaints about the attacks to which Costa Rica and its current government are subjected by the Cuban media and by the Nicaraguan media and Government. As the most grotesque case in this deliberate and orchestrated destabilizing offensive, the document notes the broadcast by an official Havana radio station of the false charge made in Mexico by a group of solidarity with alleged political prisoners in Costa Rica that there is an army of 30,000 men in our country, including 5,000 former Somozist guards. Finally, it refers to Castro's remarks favoring dialogue for achieving peace in Central America and to the "exceptional" testimony given by the delegation's CICERO [previous word published in boldface], Communist deputy Ferreto Segura, as support and proof of the situation described thereby depositing this situation right into the untrustworthy hands of the director of that entire vile orchestrated campaign against Costa Rica's democracy.

Thus, an official visit by representatives of the Costa Rican people to what is probably the most oppressed country in the Caribbean -- a visit that the Costa Rican Government openly tried to discourage, resulting in a reduction of the National Liberation Party's group to less than a third of its original size -- is used, surprisingly, as a means of conveying a message to the most experienced promoter of Latin American insurrection and the most staunch enemy of the United States and Caribbean democracies, urging him to intercede on our behalf.

Not only is this contradictory and dramatically naive, it is highly unusual. We would have preferred a message sent by one government to another through the usual international channels, by which Castro could have been made aware, in a more gentlemanly manner, that the small but proud Costa Rican democracy is very much aware of the slander and lies being orchestrated jointly by Havana and Managua, with Mexico as their sounding box.

Undoubtedly the contents of the message will go unheeded and will receive nothing but witty comment from Castro when he reads the document in the presence of the flustered fathers of our homeland. However, it will be of use to the Cuban Government for stressing both the importance of the visit as official recognition from Costa Rica and the leading role that Cuba plays in achieving peace in Central America and the Caribbean, which naturally, will be thrown in the face of the United States.

MRP DEPUTY DEMANDS ARREST OF ANTI-SANDINISTS

PA202222 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Costa Rican Deputy Sergio Erick Ardon has demanded that the government promptly arrest the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries who were receiving military training at five camps that were discovered last week in the provinces of Guanacaste and Limon.

Ardon, a representative of the People's Revolutionary Movement, MRP, said that if these anti-Sandinists remain free, serious doubts might arise about the Costa Rican Government's responsibility. He said it is inconceivable to discover and occupy several training camps used by the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries but only arrest a small number of persons. If no other arrests are made, he underscored, it might be thought that the intention to destroy these camps was not real.

The deputy said that the Nicaraguan Revolutionary Government was absolutely right when it protested before the Government of President Luis Alberto Monge, becuase Costa Rican territory is being extensively used by anti-Sandinist forces.

Ardon demanded that the government adopt drastic measures against those who are responsible for these camps, namely Eden Pastora, the Chamorro Rapaccioli brothers and businessman Alfonso Robelo.

OFFICIAL DENIES REPORT ON ANTI-SANDINIST CAMP

PA210019 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Several versions have arisen in connection with the discovery on Friday of the camp at the mouth of the Matina River, in Limon Province.

Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon reported that included among those arrested were local communists who were presumably trying to destabilize the government becuase subversive propaganda was found in several places like (Bribri), Sixaola, Rio Frio, Guapiles and nearby areas.

Chacon added that the alleged camp did not exist; in other words, he said that there was no camp where guerrillas were being trained. He also denied that there had been a 10-minute clash between the rural police and the alleged guerrillas.

Meanwhile, as was correctly reported by Radio Reloj, the four arrested persons testified that they had nothing to do with this matter and were released.

Apparently the weapons that were said to have been found in the camp were actually found in a residence in the area, Chacon said. He added that the ideology and affiliation of the foreigners and Costa Ricans found in the area and suspected of having camps there has not yet been determined with any certainty because, according to some investigatiosn, the groups include local communists, anti-Sandinists and even FMLN members.

EL SALVADOR

D'AUBUISSON ASKS INVESTIGATION OF GARCIA CHARGES

PA201612 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Constituent Assembly President Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson asked yesterday that the assembly investigate Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia's charges against him. The assembly's information department has released a communique on this issue that reads:

Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson Arrieta will ask the Constituent Assembly to investigate the serious charges that Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia has made against him, in order to determine the corresponding responsibilites. He will also ask that the current assembly session thoroughly investigate the effects of armed forces order No 1, which removed the Cabanas Department commander and led to a conflict that cuased anguish to the Salvadoran people.

Major d'Aubuisson himself will submit this request, which will be read with the correspondence at the Constituent Assembly plenum on Thursday, 20 January, so that the people's representatives can determine not only how the assembly will conduct this investigation but also which officials will be questioned during it.

Predicts Garcia Ouster

PA202345 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2321 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 20 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, president of the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly, said today that Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia will leave his post as defense minister within 3 months, according to a statement published by DIARIO LATINO.

According to the evening newspaper, D'Aubuisson said that General Garcia will be removed from his post according to negotiations in which Col Sigifredo Ochoa agreed to end his rebellion a few days ago.

General Garcia, who will complete 30 years of service in the armed forces on 31 January, said today in a press conference that he will only step down from his post if he or President Alvaro Magana "deems it advisable."

D'Aubuisson, Garcia 'Confrontation'

PA210219 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1852 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 20 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- An open confrontation has emerged between Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, president of the Constituent Assembly, and Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia. During the rebellion in Cabanas, Garcia said the movement was part of a coup d'etat that had been brewing for several months. He blamed the conspiracy on forces that wanted to return to the past and thwart the people's process of democratization.

The Defense Minister said today that he has never publicly accused D'Aubuisson of having participated in the recent coup. Garcia said, "We know how this matter is being handled, and we are aware that charges of involvement in a coup d'etat are hard to prove."

Garcia further said: "What we did say was that the Salvadoran people know who is planning all this, and if the president of the assembly wants to interpret this in his own way, that is his problem."

Since the army settled the Cabanas rebellion, there have been rumors that the military high command is going to be restructured, and that General Garcia will be replaced shortly. These rumors, however, have not been officially confirmed, although political sources have said that the Cabanas problem was solved in a political and not exclusively military way.

During the Cabanas military rebellion, the president of the Constitutent Assembly said that it would be advisable for both Colonel Ochoa Perez and General Garcia to be removed from their posts to "find a satisfactory solution." Ochoa Perez, leader of the Cabanas rebellion, has been appointed military attache to the Salvadoran Embassy in Washington. Before assuming his new post, he visited Panama for 2 days, during which time he met with Panamanian military authorities.

TERRORISTS ATTACK ANTEL OFFICES IN SOYAPANGO

PA202302 San Salvador DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Jan 83 pp 2, 47

[Excerpts] An intense shootout erupted at 1730 yesterday in downtown Soyapango and other areas when a subversive group attacked the offices of the National Telecommunications Administration, Antel, and the Civil Defense headquarters. According to reports, the attack was launched by approximately 500 terrorists, both men and women, who covered their faces with red handkerchiefs and used weapons of various calibers.

The same sources said that the extremists also attacked a military patrol in the Pepeto neighborhood, near the psychiatric hospital. The armed clashes between the subversive groups and the military patrols lasted approximately 2 hours. At 1900 occasional shots were still being heard.

Our reporters could not establish last night the number of dead and wounded because they could not reach the zones where the clashes were taking place. We have learned from reliable sources that the terrorists broke into and looted a shoe store. They did the same in other stores, the same sources asserted.

During the attack, the terrorists tried to seize city hall, but they were repelled. The fighting spread as far as the Agua Caliente area.

MILITARY SOURCES DENY FMLN CONTROLS 20 TOWNS

PA210120 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Jan 83 pp 2, 41

[Excerpt] Fierce clashes are taking place between military units and extremist groups in Morazan Department, where the extremists last week took strategic positions to interfere with farming and other activities carried out by the population in various communities. Meanwhile, military sources yesterday denied that the extremists are in control of some 20 towns in Morazan Department. What the extremists have done is to place themselves in strategic positions on hills, mountains and ridges, but not in any of the towns.

According to the same military sources, the terrorists are occupying the following towns: Perquin, San Fernando, Corinto, Torola, Arambana, Meanguera and Jocoatique in Morazan Department and Concepcion Quetzaltenango in Chalatenango Department. All these towns were abandoned by their inhabitants several weeks ago.

A military spokesman said that whenever the extremists are ejected from any of their positions, they start accusing the army of genocide in order to get the news media to make biased reports against the government and favorable to the extremists. We have also learned that some 5,000 soldiers are combing various areas in Chalatenango Department, to clear it of extremists.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Recent Victories Reported

PA202209 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 20 Jan 83

["Official report" released by the FMLN's Northeastern Francisco Sanchez Front's General Command; no date given -- read by announcer]

[Text] The FMLN reports:

1. As previously announced, on 16 January over 3,000 men of the dictatorship's elite battalions launched a defensive operation in Morazan Department, in an effort to curb the advance of the revolutionary forces. Our forces were occupying all of the towns located north of Morazan Department. One of these was Meanguera.

2. As soon as enemy reinforcements began arriving, our forces immediately implemented a plan to deal a heavy blow to the enemy forces. Our columns' areas of maneuver were established in the next few hours, as well as their functions in the various positions and directions in which the enemy was advancing. Our plan began at 0200 on 17 January, when our forces blew up the bridge over the Torola River, in Meanguera, thus interrupting all traffic to the northern part of the department.

At 0500 that same day, another column attacked and seized enemy positions in the town of Delicias de Concepcion, in the enemy's rear. At 1000, our forces withdrew from those positions. Between 0500 and 1000 that same day, 17 January, our forces foiled the enemy's attempts to advance toward Cerro Coyol and (Cerro Tigre), both located south of the town of Meanguera, inflicting a large number of casualties on them. At 1000 that day our forces withdrew and occupied positions along the banks of the Torola River, while our support-weapons division used 81- and 120-mm mortar fire to foil the enemy's advance and attack its positions in Cerro Coyol and (Cerro Tigre). At 1600 that day, from positions along the Torola River's northern bank, our forces inflicted numerous casualties on the enemy, while the latter tried to advance toward the Torola River. A lieutenant, second in command of an Atonal Battalion company, was wounded in those clashes.

From 1400 on Tuesday, 18 January to 0200 on Thursday, 19 January [as heard], our forces continued to harass the enemy, inflicting casualties on their forces posted along the southern bank of the Torola River.

At 0200 on Thursday, 19 January [as heard], our columns withdrew to the outskirts of the town of Meanguera, retaining control over the key heights. At 0700 that same day, the enemy's reconnaissance patrols entered the town of Meanguera. Desperate to claim at least some apparent victory, the dictatorship took several Copref a [Armed Forces Press Committee] newsmen to Meanguera and the bridge.

At 0830 that same day, 19 January, our forces posted along the outskirts of Meanguera, in Coyol, opened fire at a helicopter carrying several high-ranking officers who were trying to get to Meanguera. Our forces simultaneously attacked enemy positions in that town, causing additional casualties. In its effort to advance in order to control the key heights on the outskirts of Meanguera, the enemy has suffered more casualties and is beginning to slow down its advance as a result of our actions along its rear guard. Furthermore, our columns attacked other enemy forces that were advancing in different directions and dealt additional blows.

At 1500 on Wednesday, 18 January [as heard], our forces attacked and dislodged an enemy company that had posted itself in the San Carlos plantation, located in the highlands of Cacahuatique volcano.

At 0930 on 19 January, our forces ambushed an enemy detachment that was mobilizing along [words indistinct], Ciudad Barrios (?new casualties) were inflicted on the enemy during this confrontation.

Our forces continue maneuvering to weaken and deal additional blows to the enemy, which is moving in different directions. From the beginning of the operation until Wednesday 18 January [as heard], the enemy suffered 7 dead and 31 wounded.

The dictatorship's casualties in the east since 12 January total 93 dead and an even larger number of wounded. All these casualties were sustained in only 7 days of combat.

Finally, we urge our people to remain alert to the developments connected with this situation and to the clashes underway throughout the country, since we are preparing to deal new and harsher blows to the dictatorship's forces. General Garcia had said that he would not come to fight in Morazan because, according to him, the positions occupied were not important enough. Now we have forced him to come, concerned over our sweeping advance. We will defeat him in any position that he dares (?take) in our territories, regardless of how strong that position may be. Morazan is and will continue to be a free territory. Revolution or death, we will win.

Fighting in Usulutan

PA210118 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Our January Revolutionary Heroes offensive has begun, and Usulutan says present at the hour of victory. Twenty-two dead, many wounded and many weapons recovered was the outcome of the victory achieved by our revolutionary army in Usulutan Department. On Tuesday, 18 January, FMLN forces attacked enemy positions on the (Ocholito) bridge at km 93 on the coastal highway in Jiquilisco jurisdiction. The fighting lasted 3 hours, during which the enemy suffered seven dead and several wounded. At 0700 enemy reinforcements were sigheted, and our forces engaged them near Ceiba del Charco canton. The reinforcements were unable to advance for 5 hours. During this fighting we inflicted five casualties on the enemy; one dead and four wounded. At 0745 more heavy fighting was reported from our eastern positions. These attacks lasted 3 and 1/2 hours. The enemy was pushed back and badly hit by the FMLN. During these actions, the FMLN inflicted many casualties on the enemy and recovered two M-16 rifles. The total number of enemy casualties during these operations was 22 dead and an undetermined number of wounded. We have to report two casualties; the heoric deaths of (Tito) and Companero (Rabista Eduardo).

These actions were led by Companeros (Jeronimo), (Javier) and (Faustino). The information was sent to us by Commander Roberto Jimenez from Usulutan, San Agustin Tres Calles zone.

Results of Offensive

PA210243 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Our January Revolutionary Heroes offensive continues to advance. We inform our people that since this campaign began on 8 January the results obtained have been the following:

During the 12 days of the military campaign, we have recovered 213 rifles and 7 support weapons for a total of 220 war weapons. So far we have inflicted 250 casualties on the enemy and captured 128 prisoners. We have occupied 6 towns, and the important bridge over the Torola River was destroyed by our sappers.

Civilians Claimed Killed

PA210302 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] The fascist dictatorship's troops, who in a defensive maneuver have concentrated in Morazan Department, unable to hit our military force, have once again taken it out on the civilian population.

On 18 January at 1000, the enemy fired 81- and 120-mm mortar shells on the town of Meanguera, and at 1535 the shelling was repeated. As a result of these criminal attacks, 63 civilian residents of Meanguera were killed, many other were wounded, and an undetermined number of houses were destroyed. Our forces suffered four casualties; one companero killed and three wounded.

We urge the officers and soldiers of the enemy army to think about these incidents in which the army is directly responsible for crimes against defenseless civilians. Does the high command believe that shelling, machinegunning and murdering the civilian population will win the war? Does it believe that with genocide it will annihilate the revolutionary forces? All these actions do is discredit the army even further in the country and increase the bad feelings of the people against the army.

We reiterated our call to the Red Cross International Committee to come to Meanguera to help the civilians who have become victims of the fascist dictatorship.

GUATEMALA

PEASANT GROUP REPORTS MASSACRE OF 36 INDIANS

PA202217 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Guatemala City -- The Democratic Fron Against Repression [Frente Democratico Contra la Represion] has charged that 36 Indian peasants were beheaded in Joyabaj, Quiche Department, on 23 December. This massacre was committed by civilian patrols under the command of a Guatemalan Army lieutenant who is stationed in the area. The murdered Indians included a woman and several youngsters. They had been stoned and cruelly tortured before they were killed.

Subsequently, the civilian patrols, which are truly army paramilitary groups, threatened the victims' widows and orphans if they reported the massacre. However, the report was made through the Peasant Committee of the High Plateau [Comite Campesino del Altiplanc -- Ccda].

Soldiers Killed in Ambush

PA150133 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] The Guatemalan Army reports that at 0930 on 12 January, a military patrol was ambushed in (Ochuta) municipality, Chimaltenango Department. Eight soldiers were killed and five were wounded in this incident. This action was perpetrated by subversive criminals while the soldiers were performing guard duties in the area.

The deceased have been identified as Second Lieutenants Carlos Milian Ventura and Nicolas Roman Rodriguez, Cpl Efrain Garcia de Paz, Pfc Vicente Cojon Cojon, and privates Reginaldo Poc Mac, Rosendo Bartolo Luca, Ismael Subac Coyoi and Fermin Cabrea Bategui.

Clashes in Quiche, Alta Verapaz

PA171505 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Official sources yesterday reported on several clashes in different parts of the country that left seven extremists dead. According to two government communiques, the first clash took place at the village of (Bicocol) in Cotzal municipality, Quiche Province.

An army patrol intercepted a subversive group and killed two guerrillas, while the other guerrillas fled. The patrol seized grenade launchers, modern rifles of different calibers, grenades and ammunition.

The Guatemalan Army discovered a guerrilla camp in (Las Pacanas) village in San Cristobal Verapaz municipality, Alta Verapaz Province, in the northern part of the country. Shooting ensued and four extremists died. The rest of the camp dwellers fled, abandoning personal belongings, food and medicines.

The Guatemalan Army also discovered a subversive underground store in (Choljuyu) canton in San Pedro Jocopilas municipality, Quiche Province, when military units searched the area after reports were received from the area's residents. Medicines and surgical material were found in the cache.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE DENIES NICARAGUAN CHARGE

PA201519 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Communique released by the Honduran Government's International Information Directorate on 19 January in Tegucigalpa -- read by announcer]

[Text] International dispatches from Managua cite the Sandinist government's view that the upcoming joint military maneuvers between the United States and Honduras are intended to intimidate Nicaragua and to provide support and encouragement for the anti-Sandinist groups established in Honduran territory. They add that the manuevers are undeniably intended to prepare the necessary conditions for staging larger-scale acts of aggression against that Central American country. In view of this rash charge, the Honduran Government states:

1. We emphatically deny that this is the purpose of the exercise. In a previous communique we explained that the purpose of these limited joint maneuvers is technical testing geared toward the professionalization of our armed forces and that this is just one of the exercises that, by virtue of a number of existing agreements, have been staged since 1965, when the commanders did not even dream that they would become their country's government. As was announced in due time, the Nicaraguan regime has been invited, along with the other Central American countries and Panama, to watch these joint exercises as observers. This proves that the Honduran Government is acting in good faith.

2. The idea that a larger-scale attack is currently being organized exists only in the Sandinist commanders' imagination. In 1982, they announced invasions and wars on several occasions; first in November, then in December and who knows when not. None of these actions was ever staged and, they never will be, at least not from Honduran territory.

3. Perhaps the excessively rash arms buildup that the Nicaraguan Government has engaged in as part of its irresponsible and contradictory peace policy explains who is really planning to stage a larger-scale attack. Such an attack would be added to those that are being staged stealthily and slyly against Honduran integrity for the sole purpose of destabilizing its democratic government, a government that was elected by the people in free elections of a type that the Nicaraguan people no doubt fervently desire.

MINISTER REPORTS ON RESULTS OF U.S. VISIT

PA210147 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Statement by Honduran Economy and Commerce Secretary Gustavo Alfaro on results of recent visit to Washington, D.C.; date and place of statement not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Within the framework of an overall government policy, this year we will gear our entire activity toward the promotion of investments and exports. Concerning this, we have met with several obstacles, such as the one connected with the Construction Aggregates Corporation, CAC, which was charged with constructing the first stage of the work in Puerto Castilla. Under U.S. Senate Resolution No 71, aid to our country for up to $5.5 million is withheld until the Honduran Government complies with an arbitral award.

I think it is interesting to note that when this administration took over we found that an international court of arbitration had already issued an arbitral award ordering the National Port Enterprise to pay various amounts for what was termed breach of contract. One cannot ignore the fact that the procedure is valid, since the contract between the CAC and the National Port Enterprise established that any conflict derived from the contract would be resolved in a court of arbitration. We have reached the conclusion that in addition to including several errors, the arbitral award is unfair and includes a number of other defects. Even so, one cannot ignore the fact that in the United States the arbitration procedure is a highly respected and respectable institution and that, therefore, in the United States they are not concerned with whether or not the award is fair or unfair. One either complies with it or does not. In this case, Honduras has been sentenced, and we will have to comply with it. So this was one of the obstacles.

We also engaged in joint negotiations with the CAC and the OPIC [Overseas Private Investment Corporation], since the CAC had been insured by the OPIC against this type of risk.

The most serious problem concerns the fact that in abandoning the work in Puerto Castilla, the CAC left a number of local unpaid bills in both the business and labor sectors. As a government we cannot let these amounts go unpaid. There have been differences concerning the amount involved. A National Port Enterprise delegation will travel on Thursday of this week to the city of [name indistinct] in Florida in an effort to reach an agreement on these figures. A final meeting is slated for Thursday the 25th in Washington, where a final decision will be made on this problem, which is seriously affecting our country's climate for investment.

At the meeting in Washington we also asked aid for support. An aid delegation arrived today in Honduras, and we have already held talks with them in connection with a study they will conduct for the promotion of the free zone in Puerto Cortes and other free zones that might operate in this country, including an analysis of the legal situation of these free zones.

We have also opened negotiations for a reciprocal treaty for the promotion and protection of investments, and on Monday the 24th, official Honduran and U.S. delegations will formally open negotiations here in Tegucigalpa.

As you can see, the policy is geared toward making our country attractive to investments so that it can acquire the productive capacity needed to export.

NICAGARUA

RAMIREZ OBJECTS TO JOINT MANEUVERS IN HONDURAS

PA201749 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado made an important statement to this newscast about various topics of significance to our country in view of the aggressive U.S. policy toward the Sandinist peoples revolution.

We interviewed Ramirez Mercado in order to learn the revolutionary government's position on the military maneuvers that the United States is to carry out jointly with Honduras in early February. He also assessed Honduras' announcement that it wants to reactivate the Central American Defense Council, Condeca, the results of the Fifth Special Ministerial Meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau in Managua and Nicaragua's participation in the seventh nonaligned summit, to be held in New Delhi in March.

Here is Ramirez Mercado's statement on the Nicaraguan position toward the U.S. - Honduran military maneuvers:

[Begin recording] [Ramirez Mercado] We believe that this is an immature attitude by imperialism in response to the political defeat it recently suffered at the Managua nonaligned meeting. Its childish reaction was to organize this maneuver, jointly with the Honduran Army, to try to frighten us once again. However, this is the same old roar by the MGM lion. It wants to intimidate the Nicaraguan people with its soldiers and military strength, for it hasn't realized that we are a people who are determined to do everything and that all that these military maneuvers can do is strengthen our patriotism. The Nicaraguan people will do everything to defend their borders, to consolidate their revolution and, most of all, to defeat any imperialist attempt at destabilization and aggression.

[Question] To what extent would Nicaragua be willing to resort to the UN Security Council in the event that these maneuvers become a threat of an invasion of our country?

[Answer] We can't become desperate. We can't run. We must be mature, as we've always been. We must reflect on our decisions and we must never lose the initiative.

In response to our initiative and the success of the nonaligned meeting, imperialism is reacting in this childish way. Now we must take the next step, which we will take with maturity, decision and a sense of (?victory).

[Question] In the last few days, Honduras has insisted on reviving Condeca. How does Nicaragua view this attitudes?

[Answer] It is like trying to revive a corpse, for it is practically impossible. How can there be a Condeca in Central America with a victorious insurgent force like that in El Salvador? How can there be a Condeca when there is a country with a deep military conflict, like Guatemala, or one with victorious revolution, like Nicaragua? Therefore, the alternatives that imperialism has attempted, like the San Jose Forum, Condeca, or these upcoming maneuvers are all like the last kicks of a drowning man, as the Nicaraguans say.

[Question] What is the junta's opinion of the results of the recent nonaligned meeting in Managua?

[Answer] We are very pleased. We achieved all of the goals that we had planned. Nicaragua has further consolidated its position in the world as a respected and prestigious country. We will uphold the same principles at the New Delhi summit. Commander [Daniel] Ortega will atend this summit at the head of a large, strong delegation. We will also assume a position of leadership within the Nonaligned Movement in Latin America.

[Question] What importance does Nicaragua attach to membership in the Coordinating Bureau?

[Answer] We already have such leadership. This will be legitimized during the seventh summit in New Delhi. All of the delegations we talked with offered, ineed guaranteed, their support for our membership in the Coordinating Bureau. We are certain tht we will obtain this position, that Nicaragua will be the deputy chairman of the conference and that we will head the economic commission at this meeting. [end recording]

HUMBERTO ORTEGA COMPLAINS ABOUT MANEUVERS

PA201937 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Speech by Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Nicaraguan defense minister, at funeral for troops held at the Rene and David Tejada Military School on 19 January -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear relatives, mothers, wives, brothers and parents of our beloved soldiers of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] who have fallen in these last few weeks of the new year:

It is truly infuriating for us to see that while our people continue to shed their blood and to contribute their efforts and sweat to the defense of our revolution, there are certain statements and attitudes of various officials of regional governments, especially the U.S. and Honduran Governments. The Nicaraguan revolutionaries are infuriated by these shameless statements and attitudes. They claim that everything the revolutionary government says and what the Nicaraguan people are suffering are just made up and that they are lies by the revolutionary government's leaders. Even more infuriating is that in Nicaragua there are some native-born individuals who think as the imperialists, as the Yankees, as the aggressors do, and who back our reactionary and imperialist enemies' campaigns.

A war against Nicaragua would be a Central American war. It would ignite all Central America. Because of this, we continue to strive for peace in all international forums, like the Nonaligned Movement, where we reiterated our peaceful nature. We believe that this year we must continue to strive for methods of to removing the danger of war but, at the same time, we must also continue to confront the war that could occur.

In this sense, we must first of all denounce once again the military maneuvers that, with almost 7,000 men, will be held in February in Honduras near the Nicaraguan border. Those air, ground and sea maneuvers constitute a genuine provocation and a truly arrogant position by the United States, which through these threats is trying to humiliate and defeat our revolutionary people and the Central American revolutionary peoples. They want to frighten our people with these arrogant, adventurous and provocative positions.

Nearly 1,600 members of the U.S. Armed Forces and 5,000 Honduran troops will participate in these maneuvers. This is real intervention in Central America while there is this troublesome situation involving the counterrevolutionaries that operate from Honduras. The fact that almost 1,600 U.S. troops are arriving in Honduras signifies real and evident support for these Somozist bands, which murder our brothers, our civilian brothers, and kill our soldiers in clashes. That is the significance of those maneuvers at this time. This is, above all else, genuine support for those armed Somozist counterrevolutionary forces on the border. The fact that these interventionist, hateful and criminal forces -- since this is the way many Yankee Marines behaved in Nicaragua's past -- are arriving 15 km from the Nicaraguan border. The fact that now they will be operating only a few kms from the border means they are supporting and are practically alongside those assassins, genocidal individuals and beasts who have just murdered the little girls picking coffee, the children of Jalapa, the civilians of Midinra [Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry] the coffee pickers. Twenty-nine sons of Sandino, sons of Nicaragua, 29 brothers have died since 1 January in confrontation with this criminal activity provoked by Yankee imperialism. Those brothers include Midinra technicians, children and adult coffee pickers. Most of them have been in our army; 23 soldiers, companeros of the border guards, companeros of the permanent army troops, companeros of the reserves and militias, who died doing their duty.

This is unquestionably a high cost. We have killed a higher number of the enemy. It is unquestionably a high cost, for our people, who want to live in peace and who want their children to live in peace and to enjoy the power we achieve after so many years of struggle. Now could this not be a high cost for the relatives who are suffering today?

These Yankee military maneuvers are an act of support for the armed counterrevolution that is operating from the border because they are going to be held only 15 km from the border; the participants will actually eat in some of the camps of the Somozist beasts and criminals there.

At the same time, this U.S. maneuver is an act of support for the little Hitlers, the fascists and those who think they are Napoleons in the Honduran Army, who think it is easy to fight with Nicaragua and who think they can militarily resolve the main problem, which they say is the Nicaraguan Revolutionary Government and people. This military maneuver is also an act of support for those reactionaries, adventurers, fascists, lackeys of U.S. imperialism and militarists who are strengthening the position of an aggressor army that will not be used to fight in the United States but against our people. Therefore, another objective of this military maneuver is to strengthen the reactionary officers of the Honduran Army who favor a war with Nicaragua. They do not realize they are mistaken. They know they can begin an attack, but they cannot know where it will end. It will not end here in Managua, but will surely reach their capitals and cities.

We are confident we can defeat them. We are confident we can repel their aggressive plans. Therefore, at the same time that this military maneuver is an act of support for the guardsmen, it is also an act of support for these reactionary militarymen who want a war with Nicaragua. This military maneuver is also an act of support for the reactionaries of El Salvador who, unable to stop the people's armed advance, have in the past days taken a number of steps to prepare in a subtle and concealed manner an actual intervention. There is even talk that there has been movement of Honduran troops directed by gringos in the areas that border on El Salvador, and that dozens of U.S. officers have entered [El Salvador] with the excuse of supporting the interests of the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador in view of the country's situation. Little by little with those actions and that shameless intervention -- they already publicly announced they were going to hold the maneuvers -- they are trying to prepare international public opinion for a clearly interventionist situation.

Therefore, these maneuvers are also directed at strengthening the reactionaries who are increasingly more demoralized and who are abandoning more towns and strongholds to the advance of the armed revolutionary people in their liberation struggle.

These Honduran Government and Army reactionaries still have the nerve to say publicly that they invite other governments -- including ours, the Nicaraguan Revolutionary Government -- to send observers to participate in those maneuvers. Of course, they want to compromise a number of area countries in that military maneuver so that they will support rather than condemn it. We see in that shameless attitude of the Honduran Government and Armed Forces a really irresponsible and arrogant attitude. This is a really adventurous and disrespectful attitude toward our people, who are shedding their blood and are suffering from the activity of those armed Somozist bands operating from Honduras. How can these shameless individuals of the Honduran Government and Armed Forces dare invite Nicaragua to participate as an observer in those maneuvers when they are killing our best sons, the sons of our people? Isn't this a mockery? Isn't this a provocation? We reject such an invitation and we denounce it as a mockery and provocation against our people, who are angered by the blood we are shedding.

We have constantly invited them to talk about the problems and to mutually resolve the problems between our governments and armies without the gringos' involvement. They have never made serious efforts to reach understanding between our governments. Let them have the government they want in Honduras. Here we are going to have the revolutionary government that we want, the democracy that we want, and not what any neighbor or government, no matter how economically or militarily powerful, wants to impose on us. We are going to mutually respect each other, but we cannot do this while they maintain thousands of men on theborder to attack our homeland and to kill. [words indistinct] We invite the Honduran people and the progressive and mature Honduran forces to exert pressure on those who support reactionary and adventurous positions so they will rectify their attitude in time because Honduras' adventurous path can only bring harm to Central America, and they will be the main victims. Those reactionaries, gorillas and fascists are mistaken if they think they are going to win.

PAPER CITES COSTA RICAN LETTER TO D'ESCOTO

PA181452 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Jan 83 p 8

[Text] BARRICADA offers its readers a copy of a letter from Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio in reply to Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto in which Volio levels a number of charges against the Nicaraguan Government.

However, the Costa Rican foreign minister's reply includes no reference to the specific charges of counterrevolutionary activities in the neighboring country in the last few days. Nonetheless, other Costa Rican authorities, such as Col Oscar Vidal, director of the Civil Guard; and Col Ramon Montero, chief of the Civil Guard in Liberia, Guanacaste, confirmed the discovery of a television antenna with which the counterrevolutionary bands have produced interference in our territory, a charge that is included in Nicaragua's protest.

Similarly, Mr Volio alludes to the statements made by Mr Francisco Fiallos "in exercising of the right to the free expression of thoughts that is conferred by the Costa Rican Constitution," stating immediately afterward that neither that individual--who defrauded Nicaragua's Treasury -- "nor any other will be able to carry out counterrevolutionary activities in Costa Rica to the detriment of the Nicaraguan Government."

Does the Foreign Ministry in San Jose believe that the instigation of armed actions is "free expression" rather than "counterrevolutionary activity?"

The following is the official text of the Costa Rican message:

San Jose, 10 January 1983

To his excellency Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, minister of foreign relations

Mr Minister: I am answering Your Excellency's note of 8 January, which I received today. In order to give it all proper attention, I have passed on to the government ministry that part of the note that refers to Mr Eden Pastora Gomez. As soon as the minister completes the corresponding investigation and I receive the results, I will inform you of them.

I am interested now in emphasizing the fact that the Nicaraguan Government, instead of awaiting the Costa Rican Government's response to its charges, decided to protest what it describes, rashly and without reason, as the Costa Rican Government's toleration of an act attributed to Mr Pastora Gomez and other acts that Your Excellency lists in your note.

It is obvious that the Nicaraguan Government remains determined to distort the truth in order to portray itself as the victim of evil intentions on the part of the Costa Rican Government -- intentions that it knows very well do not exist -- by which it seeks not only to smear the genuine peaceful image of a people and a government internationally, but to evade Nicaragua's responsibility for serious acts abusing Costa Rica's sovereignty, security and peace and the elementary rules of respect for the president of the republic, as we have pointed out on several occasions, including recently.

This assertion is supported by the fact that Your Excellency takes the trouble to reiterate previous accusations made to the Costa Rican Government that were denied as false on those occasions, though you do not bother to acknowledge the proper actions taken by Costa Rican authorities, who have enforced their legal system when foreigners have violated it by disrespecting Costa Rica's neutrality.

I will not on this occasion refer in detail to the events that Your Excellency describes as counterrevolutionary activities carried out on Costa Rican territory to Nicaragua's detriment. The Costa Rican Government has already informed the Nicaraguan Government of its behavior and showed faithful devotion to its neutrality, as well as its respect for the principle of nonintervention in other states' domestic affairs and of the people's right to free determination. Nevertheless, as a result of Your Excellency's suspicious insistence on bringing up those old accusations, I must reiterate that none of them are true. Moreover, one of the charges, referring to the alleged arbitrary arrest and mistreatment of a Nicaraguan diplomat, is not only a gross and malicious distortion of the truth but an eloquent reminder of the fact that the Nicaraguan Government deliberately refrained from punishing diplomat German Altamirano Palacios, who was involved, along with two other officials from the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose, in an act of terrorism within a grave and dangerous conspiracy against Costa Rica's peace, security and democratic institutions, for which those officials were declared persona non grata on 27 July 1982. Instead of offering the necessary apologies to the Costa Rican Government, the Nicaraguan Government undertook reprisals contrary to international law and publicly denounced the alleged mistreatment of Mr Altamirano, a lie that Your Excellency now reiterates, with the objective of once again discrediting the Costa Rican Government.

As for the statement made in San Jose by Nicaraguan citizen Francisco Fiallos, former ambassador to the United States, I must tell Your Excellency that he exercised the right to the free expression of thoughts that is conferred by the Costa Rican Constitution. Let me take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate that neither Mr Fiallos nor any other Nicaraguan citizen can carry out counterrevolutionary activities in Costa Rica that harm the Nicaraguan Government without the enforcement by our government of the legal order preventing them when it learns of those activities. It will also take other measures established by law to penalize those who are found to be involved in such activities.

Your Excellency speaks of preserving and developing relations with Costa Rica and of solving differences that might emerge through frank and friendly dialogue, but the very note to which I am replying contradicts such objectives. They are also contradicted by the fact that the Nicaraguan Government is continuing its violations of Costa Rica's right to free and perpetual navigation on the San Juan River, despite the frequent written and verbal protests over such a grave act of hostility.

These objectives are also contradicted by the refusal of Your Excellency's government to give satisfaction to the Costa Rican Government for the disrespect shown the high office of the Costa Rican president and for the groundless charges against our government contained in the official bulletin issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua on 10 December 1982, which merited our 14 December 1982 protest note.

On 4 January I had a long and positive talk with His Excellency Ambassador Rogelio Ramirez Mercado. On that occasion, I expressed to the Government of Nicaragua my government's hope that we could find a way to ensure harmonious relations between our two countries. I was pleased when Ambassador Ramirez Mercado later told me our conversation had been received with satisfaction by Your Excellency. I believe, then, that we could truly engage in dialogue, fully and without conditions, on ways of maintaining respectful and constructive relations, as the Costa Rican Government wishes. Later, however, I learned that on that same day, 4 January, Nicaraguan military authorities threatened to kill two Costa Rican diplomatic officials, who were arbitrarily arrested as they were carrying out a mission of the Costa Rican judicial branch. I filed the respective official protest note to Your Excellency on that incident, but this ministry did not wish to make a bigger issue of it because of our intentions of finding a satisfactory resolution of our relations with the Government of Nicaragua. However, the note to which I now respond serves to further worsen the relations between our countries, because in it Your Excellency has dared to insinuate -- and moreover to do so with a veiled, inadmissible threat -- that Costa Rica is trying to abandon its position of neutrality toward the military conflicts of Central America, when you know very well that Costa Rica contributed to the development of an overall plan for peace in the region and of the forum for peace and democracy, both created at the democratic countries' foreign ministers conference in San Jose on 4 October 1982.

The Government of Costa Rica has the right to expect a radical change of attitude on the part of the Government of Nicaragua if, in fact, it wishes to demonstrate its desire to find a way of solving the differences that are creating a rift between the two states.

Whenever there is an end to the hostility of the illustrious government of Nicaragua against the one I am honored to serve, hostility that has been demonstrated in many serious and varied ways, Your Excellency will always find the Government of Costa Rica willing to look for new ways of avoiding a greater deterioration in our countries' relations.

I take this opportunity to reassure Your Excellency of my highest, definite esteem. [Signed] Fernando Volio Jimenez, minister of foreign relations and worship.

The Costa Rican Embassy in Nicaragua also takes this opportunity to reassure the honorable foreign minister of its highest and most definitive esteem. [Signed] Manuel Fernandez M., ambassador

BRIEFS

TRADE DEFICIT REDUCTION -- Official sources have reported that in 1982 Nicaragua reduced its trade deficit by $200 million through the application of strict measures to reduce imports. The government also adopted measures to increase exports and diversify markets. It is estimated that Nicaragua imported $800 million worth of goods in 1982 and there are plans to reduce such imports to $700 million in 1983. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Jan 83 PA]

PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS FIDEL CASTRO

GF201702 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs, conveyed last night an oral message from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers. This occurred during his meeting in Havana with Comrade Fidel Castro during which developments of the international situation and of the situations in the Middle East, Central America and the Caribbean were discussed.

Comrade Fidel Castro expressed his deep satisfaction over the development of the close relations between the two friendly countries and the Yemeni and Cuban revolutions.

On his side, Brother Ad-Dali expressed the appreciation of our country, party, government and people for the honest national support rendered by the Cuban revolution, under the leadership of its Communist Party, to the struggle of our people and revolution and for the national stances of socialist Cuba.

The meeting was attended by Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee and Cuban minister of foreign relations, and Brother 'Umar Husayn al-Hurubi, our ambassador to Cuba.

Ends Visit, Departs

FL201507 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1305 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], and the delegation accompanying him departed for their country last night. The Yemeni delegation, visiting Cuba at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry, was seen off at Jose Marti International Airport by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, PDRY Ambassador to Cuba 'Umar Husayn al-Hurubi and Alberto Velazco, director of the Foreign Ministry's North Africa and Middle East Division.

During their stay in Cuba, the Yemeni foreign minister and the delegation of that fraternal country visited various places of interest.

Earlier in the day, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro received the Yemeni foreign minister. During the talks, held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere that characterizes relations between the two countries, the Yemeni foreign minister conveyed greetings from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, chairman of the PDRY Presidium of the Supreme People's Council. The two sides exchanged views on the successful results of the recently held Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, as well as on the situation in the Middle East, the development of bilateral relations and other topics of common interest.

Participating in the talks were PDRY Ambassador to Cuba 'Umar Husayn al-Hurubi for the Yemeni side and Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Alberto Velazco, director of the Foreign Ministry's North Africa and Middle East Division, for the Cuban side.

CSSR INTERIOR MINISTER ARRIVES IN HOLGUIN

FL202330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Dr Jaromir Obzina, CSSR interior minister, today arrived in Holguin leading a delegation that was accompanied by Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes, member of the party Politburo and interior minister. Miguel Cano Blanco, alternate member of the Politburo and first secretary of the party in Holguin Province, and Col (Eloy Bertot), provincial delegate of the Interior Ministry, welcomed the delegation at Frank Pais airport.

Cano Blanco briefed the fraternal country's interior minister on details of the socioeconomic development in the province where large investments are being made and others are being planned, some of which will be implemented with CSSR cooperation.

BRIEFS

BARBADOS AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, today received the credentials of Harley Moseley, thus accrediting him as Barbadian ambassador to Cuba. Also attending the ceremony was Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli. After the ceremony, the Barbadian ambassador placed a wreath at the foot of the Jose Marti Monument. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 19 Jan 83 FL]

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH PRC, COMMUNIQUE SIGNED

FL201755 Bridgetown CANA in English 1723 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 20, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda and China have established diplomatic relations at ambasadorial level, according to the Chinese weekly paper, "BEJIING REVIEW."

The new relations between the communist state and the middle-of-the-road eastern Caribbean government, took effect from January 1. A communique signed by the two sides said: "The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, acknowledging the right of nations, large and small, to meaningfully participate in the process of international decision-making, and in conformity with the interests of both countries, have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level as of January 1, 1983.

"They have agreed to develop friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-intervention in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence.

"The Government of the People's Republic of China supports the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in the just cause of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of Antigua and Barbuda and in its efforts to develop the national economy.

"The Government of Antigua and Barbuda recognises that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government of China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China."

Antigua and Barbuda, a former British colony, became independent on November 1, 1981.

BARBADOS

LOUIS TULL, DELEGATION TO GO TO CUBA FOR TALKS

FL202355 Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 20, CANA -- Barbados' minister of foreign affairs, Louis Tull, leaves here tomorrow for Cuba for talks with government officials. Mr Tull will be accompanied by permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazane Babb; Barbados' permanent representative to the United Nations and recently accredited non-resident ambassador to Cuba, Harley Moseley; Foreign Service officer, Mrs Berenice King; director of culture, Elton Mottley; and Government Information Service cinematographer, Roy Byer. The Barbadians were invited to Havana by the Cuban Government.

Mr Tull will hold discussions with Cuban minister of foreign affairs, Isidoro Malmierca, as well as with the minister of culture, Armando Hart, and [the] chairman of the National Institute of Tourism. The Barbados team leaves Havana on January 25.

"It is likely that a cultural agreement between Barbados and Cuba will be signed while Minister Tull is in Havana," the Government Information Service (GIS) here said.

The minister's programme also includes a tour of health and education projects.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1972.

"While consolidating the already friendly relations which exist between Barbados and Cuba, it is hoped that during Mr Tull's visit further cooperation on bilateral and regional matters will be fostered," GIS said.

GRENADA

WHITEMAN COMMENTS ON UPCOMING CDCC MEETING

FL210145 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Unison Whiteman is expected to leave the island over the weekend to represent Grenada at the Seventh Meeting of the Caribbean Development Corporation Committee [CDCC] taking place in Trinidad.

At that meeting, Grenada, which is the present chairman of the committee, will be handing over the chair to Tinidad and Tobago. The committee, which was formed in 1975, includes all of the islands of the Caribbean as well as Suriname, Belize and Cuba.

Speaking at a press conference this afternoon, Comrade Whiteman said the purpose of the committee is to encourage cooperation and regional developmental projects. At the ministerial meeting which will begin on Monday, the committee is expected to discuss the proposal to establish a center for microfilming and machinery for producing cheaper, good-quality schoolbooks for the region.

He said that the establishment of a language center, which is also expected to be discussed, will be of great importance to Grenada. At the center, languages will be taught, translated and the coordination of documents will be conducted. He said also that the center will have to break down articial colonial barriers.

Says CBI Counters CDCC Objectives

FL210200 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Relations Minister Unison Whiteman said today that the Caribbean Basin Initiative [CBI] is in direct contradiction with the Caribbean Development Corporation Committee [CDCC]. Minister Whiteman said that the CDCC calls for the integration of all the countries of the region, whereas President Reagan's CBI calls for isolation of certain countries in the Caribbean.

Speaking at a press conference this afternoon, Minister Whiteman said that the CBI hinders the development of the CDCC.

[Begin Whiteman recording] So, one problem that the CDCC has faced in recent years, that has sort of hindered its development, has been the divisiveness introduced in the region by the CBI. Because as I said earlier, the CDCC includes all the countries of the region and the CBI was an attempt to sort of fragment or to break up that unity by excluding Cuba and by also excluding Grenada, and (?therefore), the CBI, as (?imposed) by Reagan and as a whole by the United States, runs counter to the objectives of the CDCC. [end recording]

Minister Whiteman said also that Grenada hopes to develop its bilateral and multilateral relations in the region.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASES ROYAL CANADIAN BANK BRANCH

FL210040 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Grenada now has another bank, the Grenada Bank of Commerce. The new bank was created when the People's Revolutionary Government [PRG] accepted an offer by the Royal Bank of Canada and bought its local branch in St Georges.

The Royal Bank announced that it had taken the move as part of an effort to rationalize its Caribbean and other operations. The bank's statement issued by the Royal Bank of Canada and the Ministry of Finance announced today said agreements had been reached for the sale and transfer of the Royal Bank's business in St Georges to the Grenada Bank of Commerce.

Under the agreements signed yesterday, the Royal Bank's operations will be officially handed over to the Grenada Bank of Commerce on the 28th of January. A joint statement said all staff of the Royal Bank will be extended offers of employment by the Grenada Bank of Commerce, thus ensuring the continued high level of service to the public.

When contacted for comment, the manager of the new bank, Mr (Norris Matson), said the bank will continue to provide all the services offered in the past by the Royal Bank and to honor all terms and conditions of financial arrangements which existed between the Royal Bank and its customers.

The chairman of the new bank is Tourism Minister Lyden Ramdhanny, who is also chairman of the National Commercial Bank. He, along with Finance Minister Bernard Coard and permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance, (Floriston Whitison), signed the purchase agreement for Grenada. Signing for the Royal Bank was Regional Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean Mr (Drew Corsant) and the regional area manager for administration, Mr (G.W. Good).

HAITI

EXILE SPOKESMAN FEARS FOR FUGITIVES' LIVES

FL202105 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1924 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] (Max Chantille), spokesman for Haitian exiles in Montreal, has expressed fears that the regime of Jean-Claude Duvalier may be ploiting to assassinate Sylvio and (Marie-France) Claude, leaders of Haiti's Christian Democratic Party.

In statements to PRENSA LATINA, the Haitian leader said that Sylvio Claude is a well-known and strong political opponent of Duvalierism but his life had never before been in such danger. In the case of Sylvio and (Marie-France) Claude, (Chantille) added, the dictatorship wants to apply the law of flight, that is, consider them fugitives-at-large and shoot them without the slightest hesitation.

He said that last September the couple was assigned a residence under surveillance with the condition that they report daily to the police station to sign a register. This, he said, was only an excuse to have them appear as outcasts.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

VICE PRESIDENT MANUEL FERNANDEZ MARMOL DIES

PA202242 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2231 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 20 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- Manuel Fernandez Marmol, vice president of the Dominican Republic, died here today, according to a spokesman for the family.

Fernandez Marmol had been in a hospital for the last 2 weeks. He had been operated on twice to remove obstructions in the arteries of his right leg. As of now, the cause of death is not known.

GOVERNMENT SECURITY MEASURES TIGHTENED

PA192115 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0541 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 19 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- The government has revealed the existence of "extremist groups" which, it said, plan to destroy the Dominican democratic system.

A statement signed by 50 high-ranking officials made public yesterday urged the people to prevent any attempts that endanger the peace and stability of the Dominican Republic. The statement was made public a short time after the police arrested five persons, including an air force colonel, who were accused of instigating an armed uprising. Last week this group issued a manifesto urging the military and the peasants to "fight for national reconstruction."

In the last few weeks Salvador Jorge Blanco's government has significantly tightened security measures. The president now uses an armored car.

GUYANA

1982 TRADE DEFICIT WITH CARICOM REDUCED

FL202245 Bridgetown CANA in English 2045 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 20, CANA -- Guyana last year recorded a substantial reduction in its trading deficit with its Caribbean Community (Caricom) trading partners during the first seven months, according to the Statistical Bureau.

The bureau said the deficit for the seven-month period January to July, 1982, was 74 million dollars (one Guy dollar; 33 cents U.S.) as compared with a figure of 183.7 million dollars the previous year. Mainly responsible for the 1982 deficit, the bureau said, was the importation of petroleum and petroleum products from Trinidad and Tobago. Guyana's imports from Trinidad and Tobago alone totalled 129.3 million dollars out of the overall figure of 139 million dollars in imports from Caricom countries.

Guyana's total Caricom import bill for january to July was 132.8 million dollars less than the same period in 1981 when the figure stood at 272.8 million dollars. Guyana (?exports to) Caricom countries totalled 89.1 million dollars in 1981, but last year, these declined to 65.6 million dollars -- a reduction of 23.5 million dollars.

The bureau said that Guyana enjoyed a favourable balance of trade with all Caricom countries except Trinidad and Tobago last year.

In the seven-month period, Guyana exported 9.1 million dollars worth of goods to Jamaica, while importing 7.4 million dollars worth of goods. Barbados bought 7.1 million dollars worth of goods from Guyana, while exporting nearly 750,000 dollars worth of goods. Guyana exported 1.1 million dollars worth of goods to both Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines. However, the largest portion of exports went to Guyana's main trading partner, Trinidad and Tobago -- some 45 million dollars.

Most of Guyana's earnings came through the export of rice, timber and time products [as received] alcohol and drugs.

SURINAME

U.S. MERCENARIES REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN PLOT

PA201855 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] In statements to the Netherlands paper DE VOLKSKRANT, a spokesman for the Surinamese counterrevolutionary organization called Restoration of Democracy in Suriname said that with the aid of U.S. mercenaries, plans are being made for an invasion in the near future to overthrow the regime led by Lt Col Daysi Bouterse.

The spokesman, whose name was not revealed, said that that organization contracted the services of a U.S. citizen who is a Vietnam veteran to direct the subversive operation.

The Netherlands national news agency said that the preparation of the mercenary plan against Suriname is being financed by a group of U.S. companies that have economic interests in that former Netherlands colony.

ENVOY ASKED TO NEGOTIATE GOVERNMENT FORMATION

PM211131 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 18 Jan 83 p 1

[ANP dispatch: "Bouterse Wants Hague Ambassador to Chair Government Formation Negotiations"]

[Excerpt] Paramaribo, 18 Jan -- Suriname's ambassador to the Netherlands, Henk Herrenberg, has been asked by Army Leader Daysi Bouterse to chair government formation negotiations to investigate the possibilities for the formation of a new cabinet in Suriname. This was announced by the official Surinamese press agency SNA.

Herrenberg asked for 24 hours to consider the request before answering Bouterse, who asked the ambassador to investigate "the extent to which it is possible to form a council of ministers who would be prepared to help guide the country along the established policy lines."

The Surinamese Government handed in its resignation 9 December, the day after the deaths of 15 prominent critics of the military regime. Up to now the military authorities have failed to form a government. The request to Herrenberg to become government formation negotiations leader confirms the existence of problems in forming a government.

Herrenberg, who has represented his country in The Hague since mid-November of last year, left for Paramaribo 19 December "for talks in connection with the recent events in Suriname." According to unofficial sources in Paramaribo he has been trying to win financial support for Suriname in South America, but as far as is known he has had no success.